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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

FENWICK & WEST LLP
SILICON VALLEY CENTER
801 CALIFORNIA STREET
MOUNTAIN VIEW CA 94041

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Skinner et al. :
Application No. 09/865,108 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: May 24, 2001 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Attorney Docket No. 24772-10602 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3), filed January 31, 2007, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of priority to prior-filed application No. 09/710,156, set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is GRANTED.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

A reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii). However, a Notice of Allowance was mailed in this application on December 19, 2006. To reopen prosecution for consideration of this amendment, petitioner has submitted a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and fee. (It is noted that the RCE and submission serve as a timely and complete response to the Notice of Allowance).

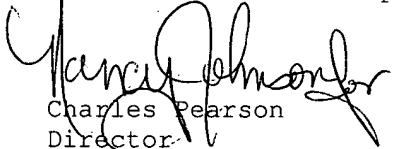
All of the above requirements having been satisfied, the late claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is accepted as being unintentionally delayed.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed applications. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed application, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Nancy Johnson, Senior Petitions Attorney, at (571) 272-3219. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 2618 for consideration by the examiner of the claim for benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the prior-filed nonprovisional application.


Charles Pearson
Director
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT : Corrected Filing Receipt